

8th „ELPIDA“ newsletter / December 2016

Many little people in many little places doing many little things ...



„ELPIDA-FOR-IRAKLIA“ is a private non-profit organization since July 2012 supporting people of the small Cyclades Island of Iraklia who are in need because of the severe economic crisis in Greece.

Again I've enjoyed another four weeks' holiday on Iraklia in summer and was deeply touched by all the **positive reactions** to our project! Even people who I'd never met before came up to me and expressed their gratitude. Especially our **food parcels** brought **direct help to many** and they thanked me with **invitations** and small **presents**.

With big joy I forward this appreciation to all of you!!!
It's the best source of energy for our meaningful task.
2016 was a phenomenal year for Elpida!

ISLAND NEWS:

- In **August** I was able to give **€ 1370,00** of **donations and sales provisions** to Maria and a family. 😊😊😊
- Another **€ 450,00** came from our English friends **John and Anne R.** and **Gillian and Mike P.**, **Erika and Manfred H.** and **Anja und Bernd H.** from Germany, **Alessandra and Gian Andrea F.** with their friends from Italy, **Agathi and Christina** from Athens, and many others contributed **€ 200,00** by donating or buying stationery – a **big THANK YOU to all!** 😊😊😊
- One of **summer's annual highlights** is the big party in the harbor area organized by the **Friends of Iraklia from Athens** with food, live music and dance. In the Chair Lady's speech our **commitment** for **ELPIDA** was **specially mentioned** and **earned a thundering applause!** 😊😊😊😊😊😊





- I visited **Evangelia** again and was made very welcome. **Lisa** is her new **carer**, and like last year her **food** was provided by a **taverna**. In autumn her **relatives** even managed to contribute **€ 1000,00(!!!)** 😊😊😊 😊😊😊 😊😊😊 to her fund, which surely needed **summoning up all their strength!** Maria takes out **€ 100,00** per month. Whenever necessary we support Evangelia, so she got supplies for **€ 300,00** before Christmas.



- **€ 85,00** were spent in autumn for the doctor's **medical instruments**. After a short period of supply shortage because of communication problems (internet) regular deliveries by Erwin Schrumpf's www.griechenlandhilfe.at are back to normal – trouble free and absolutely satisfactory! That's most remarkable for he not only supplies more than **40 places all over Greece**, but also the **earthquake area in Italy!** **My deepest respect to Erwin and his team!!!** 😊😊😊
- Maria organized **food parcels for families** again before Christmas and spent **€ 500,00**.
😊😊😊 😊😊😊 😊😊😊

General survey:

- **Last winter** didn't bring enough **rain** > less **plants** > less **wild thyme** > less **bees** > less **honey** > less **food for goats and sheep...** 😞😞😞
- **This year is still worse:** Usually the island turns to a lush green with the beginning of autumn rains after the long dry period of summer heat. It's still brown now due to hardly any rain yet. **Iraklia could face a drought** with severe effects on **animal farming, fruit and vegetable growing**. The **groundwater level** is too low and **water** must be **shipped in at very high cost!!!** People are literally praying for rain... 😞😞😞 😞😞😞 😞😞😞 😞😞😞
- **Taxes** go on **growing** and **pensions sinking** – for many the situation has become almost **unbearable!** 😞😞😞

- **New tavernas and rooms** were nicely done with much **creativity and commitment**. The friendly population is working hard, there's **much potential** and **big hope in tourism**. 😊😊😊😊😊
- Last summer our **solar lamps** lit the **harbour area**. 😊😊😊😊😊
- In **Tourkopígado beach** many more **voluntary** hours of **labour** created a nice **shadowy bus stop**. 😊😊😊😊 Unfortunately I missed taking a picture from the boat... ☹️
- The **próedros (president / mayor) Petros Gavalas** sends his **special thanks to all**. He and his friends were very interested in **feedbacks and suggestions for improvements**. 😊😊😊😊😊



Our coordinator Maria Gardia with president Petros Gavalas

- Iraklia owns **one of Greece's largest and most beautiful stalactite caves** inside the mountain *Profitis Ilias*. It's named after **Aghios Gioannis**, St. John the baptist. Every year on **August 28th** hundreds of wax candles create a solemn atmosphere for the celebration of the Holy Mass to **honor the island's patron**. Guests come from far to participate in this almost archaic ritual. The high esteem of this unique site led to plans to equal a conservation status. In summer people started **crowd funding** for the development of the foot path into a **better road**. This is one of the **requirements for the formal qualification**. 😊😊😊😊😊



Annual service in *Aghios Gioannis cave*

- There's **no English teacher** for school yet, so **Maria** is doing it again – **without payment!** With her being bilingual this is especially helpful and necessary for **children heading for college!** 😊😊😊
- **Carole D.** from England is happily spending her **first year of retirement on Iraklia** and has created a **blog** with stories and pictures: **Notes from an even smaller island** - <https://irakliablog.wordpress.com> 😊😊😊
- **Marine life:** For the first time – as far as I know – **young turtles *caretta caretta* hatched** in September in **Livadi beach!** These friendly giants are on the **red list of endangered species** and adults have been coming to Livadi regularly during the last years. In spite of all the summer tourists and boats that speaks in environmental favour for this busy place!!! 😊😊😊



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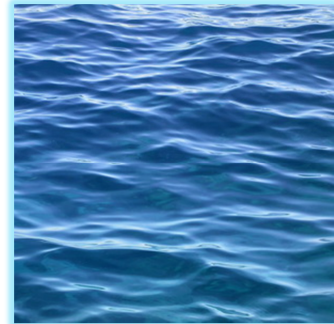
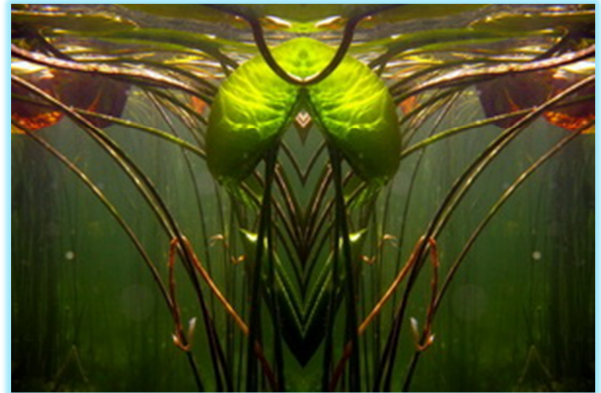
- Again and agin – interesting and informative for enthusiasts: www.diablog.eu (Greek – German - English) 😊😊😊

EVENTS AND PLANS - AROUND THE DONATION BOX:

- I had attended two fairs again like the years before: The **Glocknerlammfest** in September and **Christmas market** in November. They brought nice sales and encouraged by my previous culinary success I had added a few delicacies to my product line „**SWEET & SPICY**“ (jams, chutneys, spices). My stationery is still going strong as well! **Many thanks to all visitors!** 😊😊😊



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Some examples from lake and sea

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incredible € 2.120,00 – two thousand one hundred and twenty!!!

[illegible]

Some more ideas for cooperation are ahead but I'll cross this bridge when I get there...



Anja K., Chair Lady and island hopper

So I can transfer another € 3.500,00 of donations and provisions that had summed up since summer!

😊😊😊 A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED! 😊😊😊

2016 IN REVIEW AND THANKSGIVING:

- Above all I thank **Harald E. and his team**, my **reliable printer** without whom most of my work couldn't be done. Their **high quality stationery** is one of ELPIDA'S most important pillars!!! www.eisl.co.at 😊😊😊
- **A sincere THANK YOU to all buyers and sellers, who made 2016 so successful:** Tyrolia Lienz (paper, books & presents) * City Library Lienz * Obwexer Matri (paper, books & presents) * Tirolerhof Dölsach * Mölltaler Handwerksstube & Ederhof Mörttschach * Ebner's Greißlerei Lendorf * Kulturverein Goldegg * In Heiligenblut: Souvenir Senger * Hotel Glocknerhof * Hunguest Hotels Heiligenblut & Landhotel Post * Knapp Kasa * Karl-Volkert-Haus * Sattelalm * Raiffeisen Bank * Glockner Massageinstitut * Nationalparkcamping * Berghotel Hois * Gemeinde Heiligenblut * Gasthof Hohe Wand * KFZ Lackner 😊😊😊 😊😊😊
- **A big DANKE SCHÖN – THANK YOU – MILLE GRAZIE – MERCI BIEN – ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ ΠΟΛΥ** to all “feeders” of my bank account: Jürgen St., Maria L., Erika & Manfred H., Monika & Hans K., Margit & Hanno K., Christine M., Marlies C., Harald L., Alessandra & Gian Andrea F., Margret M., Emmi K., Barbara L. und Heinrich K.! 😊😊😊 **TIP: Please note your favourite purpose like: food parcel * school * Evangelia * medical support * cave road * tourism...**
- **More assistance** came from the following **local media** and for **my digital work** from: Anja K. und Gerhard P. / dolomitenstadt * Elisabeth H. / Osttirol Journal * Catharina O. / Tiroler Tageszeitung *** Julia R., Franz K., Stevie K.. **Many thanks for your support and sometimes emergency aid!**



**2016 ELPIDA was blessed with a most Lucky Star:
I can still hardly believe it myself, but we recently exceeded
the limit of € 15.000,00!!!**

2012: € 300,00

2013: € 2250,00

2014: € 2925,00

2015: € 2850,00

2016: € 7045,00

Rejoice in our total sum of € 15.370,00!!!



**This gives Iraklia a comforting cushion for the next future!
Of course we're most grateful for any further support, and I'm sincerely grateful and deeply touched by your increasing participation !**

Our successful proceedings – proven and tested:

Together we agree on all investments in advance and the people of Iraklia always contribute a considerable share by volunteered work or donations!!! Every single Euro goes to Iraklia strictly net, all helpers are volunteers, I get receipts and photos and can see our achievements myself.

Since the situation is not likely to improve soon Maria always keeps an adequate amount for emergencies. I'll do my best and ask you to support Iraklia like before.

My sincere thanks go to every single one involved, especially to Maria on Iraklia as well as to John and Lynne in England for their always friendly, thoughtful and correct handling, and to all our Greek friends! 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

EVERY SHARE HOWEVER SMALL IS MORE THAN WELCOME!
Ευχαριστώ πολύ! (Evcharistó polí = Many thanks!)



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All detailed information about **Elpída – Iraklia** – helpful **links**
Stationery with **wildlife motifs** from **Greece** and **Austria**

facebook:
ELPIDA 4 IRAKLIA